I Regina pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. My name is I am a U.S. citizen. I am an attorney. I reside at \*\*\*
- 2. I have personal knowledge about the facts set forth below.
- 3. During early-Summer 1995, I spoke on various occasions to a man named Mark Alexander, with a company called On Line Communications ("On Line"). I first called Mr. Alexander as a result of conversations that I had with meaning the Mr. Alexander as his salesperson.
- 4. After I spoke to Mr. Alexander, he sent me various promotional materials. I spoke to him again after receiving those materials. Mr. Alexander told me that On Line would help me acquire a license to provide two-way, or interactive, paging services. He said that paging licenses are more valuable than SMR licenses. He said that the paging licenses were the wave of the future.
- 5. On July 6, 1995, I decided to invest with On Line. I sent On Line a check for \$12,990, a true and correct copy of the receipt for this check is attached as Exhibit 1. Mr. Alexander told me that the money I was sending in would entitle me to obtain a license serving New York City. He said that, next to Los Angeles licenses, New York licenses were the most valuable

2 t

ones to acquire, because of the city's population. Mr. Alexander told me before I invested that there were only a few licenses left for New York City, so I must act fast in order to get one. After he received my money, he told me that I was very fortunate since I received the third-to-last license available.

- 6. Mr. Alexander discussed with me the value of the license that I would be receiving. He said that I should be receiving multiple offers to acquire the license, and suggested that I lease the license rather than selling it outright. On one occasion, Mr. Alexander told me specifically that my license was worth \$30,000-\$40,000
- 7. At different times during our early-July conversations, Mr. Alexander told me that my investment in a license for New York City was risk free. At one point, Mr. Alexander told me explicitly that I was "guaranteed" to make a profit on the deal. Later in the same conversation, he said that he could get in trouble for using the word "guaranteed," but I would definitely make money.
- 8. Mr. Alexander also told me that I could expect to receive money in the very near future if I invested with On Line. In presenting the program to me in early-July 1995, he said that I should receive some money back before Christmas, 1995.
- 9. My original plan in dealing with On Line was to invest together with Indeed, on one occasion, I was involved in a conference call with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Goo. Ultimately, I decided to invest separately.
- 10. In my discussions with Mr. Alexander about the value of acquiring paging licenses through On Line, I asked him why paging

**6 7** 

companies could not get the licenses themselves. He told me that the Federal Communications Commission would not allow them to do so. According to Mr. Alexander, the paging companies should have to come to private licensees (such as myself) to obtain the licenses they need, because the FCC restricted the number of licenses they could acquire.

- 11. Mr. Alexander told me after I invested that if I have a license with a particular channel serving New York City, this would be my channel and I would own it.
- Mr. Alexander mentioning the idea that I might have to build out a paging system if I wanted to make money from my license.

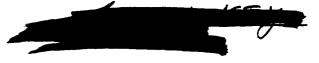
  Indeed, I never considered building out such a system before I invested. After I invested, I called Mr. Alexander and spoke to him about how the licenses would be built out. He told me that I would not have to worry about that, because the company to whom I would be leasing my license would take care of building the system.
- 13. After I invested, Mark Alexander called on different occasions and discussed the possibility that I might acquire additional licenses. He told me in July 1995 that there were a number of licenses left for Chicago but those licenses would not be available after a few days. He called me in August 1995 and told me that he has licenses available in such cities as Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles (Mr. Alexander claimed that this Los Angeles license became available because someone had lied on

his application). He claimed that these licenses also would no longer be available after a few days.

- 14. Mr. Alexander told me that when I receive calls from companies attempting to acquire my license, I should make sure to get the offers in writing. He also told me to provide the information to Mr. Alexander, who would explain whether the offer is from a legitimate company and whether it is high enough to accept.
- 15. Within recent weeks, I received three paging licenses as a result of On Line's services. Attached as Exhibit 2-4 are copies of these licenses; these copies are true and correct except that they do not include certain telephone numbers that are stated on the licenses. Attached as Exhibit 5 are true and correct copies of additional documents that I received together with the licenses.
- 16. During the course of my relationship with On Line, I have received various promotional literature as well as information concerning my application for licenses. Attached as Exhibit 6 are true and correct copies of many such documents.
- 17. On October 23, 1995, I received a letter from On Line.
  Attached as Exhibit 7 is a true and correct copy of that letter.
- 18. I have yet to receive a single offer to buy or lease my license.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 11/9/95



as follows:

My name is

18. I am a mechanical engineering consultant.

2. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below.

pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare

I am a U.S. citizen over age

- 3. In late August 1995, I received a cold call from a man who told me he represented On Line Communications ("On Line").

  He marketed to me an investment in paging licenses. I decided not to invest at that time.
- 4. Approximately one to two weeks later, a man identifying himself as "Maurice" called me and told me he represented On Line. He tried to convince me to pay On Line \$60,000 for a package of licenses for cities in the midwest. He then pressured me to cut a certified check for \$60,000 right away and told me Federal Express would pick it up from my home the next day. The pressure and the hype were too much for me and I told him to forget it.
- 5. On Line sent me promotional materials in the mail.

  After reading the promotional materials, I understood that, were
  I to invest with On Line, I would receive licenses granting me
  exclusive use of the given frequencies in the areas covered by my
  licenses.
- 6. The basic pitch of On Line representatives was that as soon as I received my licenses, people would start calling me

offering to lease or purchase my licenses. They explained that I would receive many offers because the FCC issues a limited number of licenses for each coverage area, and no more than one license for each entity that applies. The On Line representatives warned me about cities that were sold out, or selling out fast. For example, they said that Atlanta was "about to go," with the Olympics in '96, and all. They pressured me to hurry up before everything was gone.

- 7. The On Line salespeople assured me that leasing to a paging company would yield "a pretty hefty income" -- approximately \$0.50 per pager, per month, or \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month, per city.
- 8. The On Line representatives made it seem like I would not have to do anything once I received my licenses -- like market my licenses or build out paging systems -- because operating paging companies would be contacting me with offers.
- 9. About a week and a half after the second phone call, a man identifying himself as "Don Neff" called. He told me he was the vice president of On Line. He convinced me to purchase a "growth city package" that he claimed was available for me. I agreed to go for licenses in: Orlando, FL; Atlanta, GA; Denver, CO; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, for a total of \$37,970. At the insistence of Neff, sent a wire transfer order in the amount of \$37,970 on 9/27/95 to the benefit of On Line to their Las Vegas Bank of America account. I have attached a true and correct copy of this wire transfer order as Exhibit 1.

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- 10. After I paid the \$37,970, Neff called me again and convinced me to invest in a package of licenses for Miami and Fort Lauderdale, FL. I sent another wire transfer order to the Las Vegas account for \$12,500 on 10/10/95. I have attached a true and correct copy of this wire transfer order as Exhibit 2.
- 11. I asked Neff why On Line charged so much. He explained that On Line barely made any money on the deals because of the several engineering studies that needed to be conducted for each license and because of the complicated paper work that needed to be filled out correctly.
- 12. Through On Line's services, I received licenses for the following frequencies: 929.0625, 929.1625, 929.2625, 929.0875. I have not yet received all of the licenses for which On Line applied on my behalf. I have attached as Exhibit 3 true and correct copies of the licenses I have received plus application cards issued by the Personal Communications Industry Association reflecting the licenses I have not yet received.
- 13. To date, I have not received any offers to purchase or lease my licenses.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: December 23, 1995



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26

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DKT/CASE NO.: 9623015

CIV NO.:

TITLE: Federal Trade Commission v.

et al.

PLACE: New York, New York

DATE: March 11, 1996

PAGES: 1 through 182

Deposition of:

# HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

Official Reporters
1220 L Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C.
(202) 628-4888

1	client.
2	Q Why was that?
3	A We understand that there can be overlapping
4	applications on the 931 market area at which point the FCC
5	will take one of two actions. They will not grant first
6	come first serve basis. They will put it out for subsequent
7	auction or non-competitive lottery. We did not feel that
8	this was in the best interest of our clients. The only
9	clients we put on 931s were those clients that specifically
LO	requested 931s.
L1	Q I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 13,
L2	Mr. entitled on the top 152 MHZ VHF in
L3	parentheses. It's a one page document with some handwriting
L <b>4</b>	on it, typewritten with also some handwriting on it. Do you
L5	recognize Exhibit 13?
16	(Document above referred to
17	was marked for identification
18	as Exhibit 13.)
19	A Yes.
20	Q. Do you recognize the handwriting?
21	A Most of the handwriting, yes.
22	Q. And who's is that?

Is this the document that you received from

22

23

24

25

Mine.

A

Q.

Mr.

- 1 Q When you say guideline, what do you mean?
- 2 A We were of the belief that the FCC was eventually
- going to auction off all licenses which would have
- 4 effectively put out of business.
- 5 Somewhere along the course of my responsibility to search
- out new products, this one came to me and I thought it might
- 7 be a good idea. So we setup a company. I wrote up some
- 8 guidelines as to how to effectively handle the product as
- 9 well as the clients. And this is basically a text of that
- 10 quideline.
- 11 Q If I understand your testimony, you drafted
- 12 Exhibit 18.
- 13 A- Yes.
- 14 Q And subsequently had somebody type it?
- 15 A- Yes.
- 16 Q Do you recognize any of the handwriting on it?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q , was that a company that you
- 19 incorporated?
- 20 A: Lincorporated
- 21 O. When?
- 22 A I don't remember, December '95, January of '96.
- 23 Q. Did have offices? -
- 24 A It never got off the ground.
- 25 Q. To whom did you give this Exhibit 18 as a

- 1 Q And when you say that you spoke with many license
- 2 holders, were they license holders?
- 3 A Some.
- 4 Q What type of licenses did they have?
- 5 A Paging.
- 6 Q What type of paging?
- 7 A SMRs, 929s, 931s.
- 8 Q Are they shared licenses or exclusive licenses?
- 9 A I don't recall the details.
- 10 Q In Chadmore I believe you testified that you don't
- 11 know what type of system they operate?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q You don't know how big a system they operate?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Do you know if they ever paid any monies to Micom
- 16 licensees for for the use of those licenses?
- 17 A I know that they had contracts in place. I don't
- 18 know if monies were submitted.
- 19 Q. You testified on Monday that you believed that the
- 20 licenses, that the paging licenses that was soliciting
- 21 applications for had inherent value. Do you recall that
- 22 testimony?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q What do you mean by inherent value?
- 25 A: They have value in and of themselves.

1	A I don't believe that the government would put them
2	out for public consumption if they were valueless. I don't
3	believe that there would be mad scrambling of billions upon
4	billions of dollars to the auctions if they had no value. I
5	don't believe that knowledgeable investors such as Bill
6	Gates would go after licenses without value. I'm a believer
7	in scientific advancement.
8	Q Let's talk about specifically shared-paging
9	licenses. Do you believe the they're worth billions of
10	dollars?
11	A In the aggregate?
12	Q. No, individually.
13	A I don't know that you would ever buy anything for
14	billions of dollars.
15	Q And shared-paging licenses, they are not issued
16	through an auction are they?
17	A I don't believe so.
18	Q And you don't know, you don't know if Bill Gates
19	owns any paging licenses do you?
20	A I understood he acquired one at auction.
21	Q. A paging license?
22	A. That's what I understood.
23	Q. Who did you understand that from?
24	A: News reports.

25

: Would you have copies of those news

EXHIBIT 24 85

## OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

# THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DKT/CASE NO.: 9623015

CIV NO.:

TITLE:

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION v.

PLACE:

Washington, D.C.

DATE:

March 15, 1996

PAGES:

183 through 382

Deposition of:

Official Reporters 1000 I Course NW Suite 600 25

We had done some filings for our clients a few

- 2 days before, and one of my engineers, one of my
- 3 engineering subcontractors, contacted me on the next day
- 4 and said, "Listen, last night at midnight the government
- 5 froze the SMR program." It was obvious to both myself and
- that we were pretty much at the mercy of the FCC's
- 7 decisions with regard to turns of events or the future of
- 8 the business and we should scout out new products for
- 9 and its clients.
- 10 Q. What products were those?
- 11 A. We had not come up with any particular
- 12 products. Any specific products at that time.
- 13 Q. In your mind, did you have a long future at
- 14 doing what was doing or were you looking for
- 15 other opportunities?
- 16 A. We had created to be a
- 17 long-lived entity. So obviously we were looking to do
- 18 whatever we could reasonably do to maintain our existing
- 19 client base, broaden our client base, and basically
- 20 continue in the communications field.
- 21 Q. What other opportunities were you looking at in
- 22 December to go into if, for example, the government
- 23 announced that it was going to shut down or freeze paging
- 24 applications? Did you have an exit strategy?
- 25 A. The first question would have been, well, what

EXHIBIT 23

1 DARREN A. BOWIE DOUGLAS A. GORDIMER 2 Federal Trade Commission 6th St. and Penn. Ave., N.W. Room 200 Washington, D.C. 20580 4 (202) 326-2018, -3003 5 LINDA M. STOCK Federal Trade Commission 6 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 13209 Los Angeles, CA 90024 7 (310) 235-7896 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 12 96- 0455 KMW (SHX) 13 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, Case No. 14 Plaintiff, 15 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT v. OF PLAINTIFF FEDERAL TRADE 16 BELL CONNECTIONS, INC. COMMISSION'S EX PARTE JIMMIE JUSTUS, and APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY 17 MICHAEL BERMAN, d/b/a RESTRAINING ORDER WITH DISCOUNT FILING SERVICES, ASSET FREEZE, APPOINTMENT 18 OF TEMPORARY RECEIVER, ORDER 19 Defendants. FOR IMMEDIATE ACCESS, EXPEDITED DISCOVERY, 20 AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION NOT ISSUE 21 22 23 24 25 26

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") brings this action to halt and redress defendants' violations of Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. §45(a), which prohibits deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce. Defendants have violated Section 5 by fraudulent telemarketing application preparation services for, and investments in, paging licenses issued by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").

Investment schemes involving FCC licenses have proven to be popular among fraudulent telemarketers. The Commission has brought law enforcement actions against cellular phone license lottery scams, wireless cable license application mills, specialized mobile radio ("SMR") license application and build-out schemes, and partnership frauds involving interactive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, e.g., FTC v. American Nat'l Cellular, 810 F.2d 1511 (9th Cir. 1987) (upholding preliminary injunction with asset freeze and appointment of receiver); FTC v. The Cellular Corp., No. C85-8231(WHO)(N.D. Cal. Mar. 3, 1986) (stipulated permanent injunction).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See, e.g., FTC v. Spectrum Resources Group, Inc., No. CV-N-695-HDM (RLH) (D. Nev. Feb. 28, 1995) (prevailed on merits at trial; permanent injunction, consumer redress and disgorgement ordered); FTC v. American Microtel, No. CV-S-92-178-LDG (D. Nev. Dec. 23, 1993) (stipulated permanent injunction and consumer redress ordered); FTC v. Applied Telemedia, No. 91-0635-CIV-Ungaro-Benages (S.D. Fla. Jan. 12, 1993) (stipulated permanent injunction and consumer redress ordered).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See, e.g., FTC v. Digital Communications. Inc., No. 93-6648-JGD (JRX) (C.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 1995) (stipulated permanent injunction; summary judgment against one defendant); FTC v. Metropolitan Communications, Corp., No. 94-Civ-0142 (JFK) (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 31, 1994) (stipulated preliminary injunction entered; case is pending).

television licenses. The latest in this long line of "information superhighway robbery," an investment scheme involving FCC paging licenses, has precipitated this action.

Through a nationwide telemarketing campaign, defendants sell paging license "application preparation services." Defendants charge consumers thousands of dollars to prepare and file applications for paging licenses with the FCC. Defendants tout such licenses as an excellent passive investment opportunity, telling consumers that they will reap thousands of dollars in profits, without additional expense or effort, by selling or leasing the licenses they obtain to large paging businesses. Defendants further claim that since paging carriers are prohibited from acquiring more than one license per geographic area from the FCC directly, they are more than willing to pay huge sums to buy or lease licenses from other licensees.

All of these claims are patently false. Rather than realizing phenomenal profits, consumers are likely to lose all of the money they invest with defendants. First, contrary to defendants' false claims, the FCC does <u>not</u> restrict paging operators from acquiring more than one license per geographic area -- such operators can, and do, obtain multiple licenses per area from the FCC. Second, paging carriers do <u>not</u> typically buy or lease bare <u>licenses</u> for undeveloped paging systems from individual consumers - they obtain licenses from the FCC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>FTC v. Chase McNulty Group. Inc., No. 95-524-CIV-T-25E (M.D. Fla. Jan. 10, 1996) (stipulated permanent injunction with permanent receiver and consumer redress filed), FTC v. Digital Interactive Associates. Inc., No. 95-Z-754 (D. Colo. April 7, 1995) (preliminary injunction ordered; case is pending).

themselves, or they acquire operational paging systems from other paging carriers. Third, the FCC expressly prohibits the acquisition of paging licenses for the purpose of speculation or profitable resale. Licensees are expected to develop and operate paging systems themselves, and consumers who acquire licenses in violation of this policy risk forfeiture of their licenses. In sum, the licenses defendants tout as highly valuable and an excellent passive investment opportunity, in fact have little or no resale or investment value, and defendants have swindled consumers throughout the United States.

There is compelling evidence of defendants' fraudulent scheme, including transcripts of telemarketing sales pitches tape-recorded by undercover investigators, as well as declarations from defrauded consumers themselves. Declarations from the FCC, a paging industry expert, and representatives of the some of the largest paging companies in the nation conclusively prove the falsity of defendants' representations. The injury from defendants' scheme is large -- defendants' own documents show that they have taken in over \$4.5 million dollars from consumers. Absent action by this Court, their fraud will continue unabated, and potential redress for injured consumers will be squandered.

The Commission brings this ex parte application to obtain a temporary restraining order and asks this Court to (1) prohibit defendants from using deceptive practices in connection with the sale of FCC license application services; (2) freeze defendants' assets, (3) allow the Commission immediate access to relevant documents at defendants business premises, and allow for

expedited discovery as to the location of assets and documents;

(4) appoint a temporary receiver over the corporate defendant;

and (5) set a show cause hearing on why a preliminary injunction
should not issue. This relief is critical to preserve assets for
redress to injured consumers, secure key documents, and halt the
ongoing fraud. As set forth below, there is extensive precedent
within this Circuit and District to grant such relief in
appropriate Commission actions.

#### II. THE PARTIES

Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission is an independent agency of the U.S. Government created by the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §41 et seq. The Commission enforces, among other things, Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §45(a), which prohibits deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce. Section 13(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §53(b), authorizes the Commission to file actions to enjoin FTC Act violations, and to secure the equitable relief appropriate in each case. See FTC v. H.N. Singer, Inc., 668 F.2d 1107, 1111-1113 (9th Cir. 1982).

Defendant Bell Connections, Inc. ("Bell") is a California corporation with its principal places of business in Woodland Hills, California. (Ex. 11 at 385; Ex. 9 at 174). Defendant Bell has telemarketed application services for, and investment opportunities in, paging licenses since approximately April 1995, when it took over the operations of Discount Filing Services, a

d/b/a of defendant Berman. (Ex. 11 at 386).<sup>5</sup> Bell income statements the Commission received from one Bell customer show that the company has taken in over \$4.5 million since 1994. (Ex. 13 at 458-59).<sup>6</sup>

Bell has failed to comply with the California Telephonic Sellers Act, which requires all telephonic sellers of "any . . . investment opportunity of any type whatsoever" to register with the State of California, and most importantly, to post a bond in the amount of \$100,000 in favor of the State, for the benefit of any consumer harmed by violations of the Act. Violations of the Act are punishable by a fine of \$10,000 for each violation, and/or imprisonment for one year. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §17511 et seq.; (Ex. 11 at 278).

Defendant Jimmie Justus ("Justus") is listed as the chief executive officer, chief financial officer, secretary, and sole director of defendant Bell on Bell's corporate filings. (Ex. 11 at 385). Justus has also signed promotional letters to consumers as Bell's president. (Ex. 2 at 26; Ex. 6 at 153).

Defendant Michael Berman ("Berman") has done business as
Discount Filing Services ("DFS"), a fictitious business

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In March 1995, one consumer was solicited by a representative of *Discount Filing Services*, and later noticed that Discount Filing Services had changed its name to Bell on promotional materials. (Ex. 8 at 157). Another consumer was solicited by a *Bell* representative in April 1995, (Ex. 6 at 104), suggesting that defendants started using Bell's name around April 1995.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> These income statements were included with a letter to the Bell customer dated January 8, 1995 that stated that Bell was now "offering stock to [its] clients at the rate of \$1.00 per share (minimum 10,000 shares)." (Ex. 13 at 457).